
178 2/18/1850 *From:* O O Howard

To: Father [John Gilmore]

OOH-0167

Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

Brunswick Feb 18th 1850.

Dear Father

I arrived in Brunswick on Saturday last - am well - vaccination did not & probably will not take.

I went to see Mr. Henry this forenoon and found him living six miles instead of two from this place. He did not take up the note, because, he says, he was deceived. The statement is as follows – Giddins Lane told him, in the presence of Arza, that they had sold the town of Bowdoinham for \$50.00 and should sell him the town of Topsham \$10.00 cheaper whereupon he gave his note for \$40.00. It appears, however, that the town of Bowdoinham was sold for \$30.00, \$10.00 paid down & a note for \$20.00, which note was afterwards sold to a neighbor. You see the deception if the above is true.

The man appears to be a fair, honest man. He says he will give \$30.00 for the note. This I dared not accept before consulting you. He says also that he can prove that they deceived him, & thinks if he could see you that you would allow a discount of \$10.00. I am very certain that I can get as much as \$35.00 for the note. Write me if you think I had better give up the note for that amount. You need not send me any money if you are willing to do this. The man surely will not give more unless it is extracted by law. Considering the circumstances & the difficulty attending any other course, I think you will do this. The man has not made any thing on his bees yet. He will be here to see me soon & if you think best I shall make him that offer, but shall not favor him more.

My love to all - write immediately, if possible.

Yours truly
O. O. Howard

179 2/21/1850 *From:* R B Howard

To: Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0168

South Leeds

Wayne

Source: Bowdoin

South Leeds Feb 21st 1850

Dear Brother

You will see by the date of my letter that I am at home. What, you will say, he has not got turned out, has he? No! Certainly not - but simply one of my principal constituents (I don't know as that is the right term) is dead and I have adjourned my school from today (Thursday) until Monday. Mr Ridley was father to most of my scholars and unkle to the rest and if I had kept I should not have had more than five or six scholars. If you were here you would ask how have you got along? Very well. Since they stayed at home, my school had been as regular as circumstances would admit Mr R. having been very sick for some time, although things have gone on rather slowly in the school. Still they have gone for which of course I take some credit to myself.

I cuffed one of my boys ears the other day (sprained my wrist by the way which accounts for the "mistic art" not being very nice) and an older brother told me that he did not like to have me strike a boy side of the head in that way, accompanying the above declaration by pugilistic ((lord what a word) gesture of a fist as big as a small infants head. You may well suppose that the "little boy" was somewhat agitated. I waited till his anger got cooled down and my wrist left off tinging then I talked to the little dear a little. I think eloquence was never exerted with greater effect, for soon the tears trickled down his cheeks and he came up to my desk and asked my forgiveness. I shall keep two or three weeks longer, I don't know which. I don't know, but I think I am not very popular on Beach hill.

I have thought all along that I was losing flesh tremendously so I weighed myself the other day at Wayne - and found I weighed 149 lbs pretty well was it not? I was at Dr Careys last Monday evening and found a very large party there including all the young people of Wayne, at least to the number of 75. The house was crowded. Well there! If these Collage fellows are not the greenest chaps about the girls I ever saw, all of them. Coolage imagines that Louisa (Green)wod is an angel and as such goes home with her from parties at 8 oclock and stays till twelve drives her out to Winthrop to church, &c. Shes a beauty, an't she! Your Wayne acquaintances are all well and enjoying themselves. They have a great ball on the 22d the Monday after which we have a discussion on the merits of Dancing.

Fryday 22d

I went upp to Liceum last night. The question was in regard to foreign emigration. A certain Inexpertus got a severe trimming from the hands of one of the ladies supposed to be a Miss Ramsdel. If he did not get it well I am mistaken

I've bloted this side of the paper but never mind. I have heard that you made a call at P_ where you went down but they say the fatherest way round is the shortest across for a dog. Did you study Mental Philosophy any while there.

Father has gone to Waterville today by the way of the cars. Railroad business is in a very prosperous condition here. There have been mass meetings at Wilton and Farmington (<playne> take it all how lame my wrist is) an ten thousand dollars pledged but alas the treasury is empty. I think I shall go to Readfield this spring, as soon probably as my school is done. I shall go up tomorrow to see about a boarding place. The Doctor invited me to go down to Brunswick with him this spring and should not wonder if I accepted it. If I come it will be in two or three weeks. Send up to me those pieces. The "Dead Christ", I want to commit it this spring. Write to me soon and direct to Wayne.

Your affectionate Brother
R B Howard

O O Howard

180 2/23/1850 *From:* Charles H Howard *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0169

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, Feb 23d 1850

Dear Brother

I am at home with the mumps. I came last Tuesday from my school. This morning I have been feeding my colt with potatoes, and the cows with salt. I think that I shall get so that I can go back to my school Monday. Mother and Louisa are baking. Rowland came home last Thursday. He ajourned his school until next month on account of Mr Ridley's death. He went to Readfield this morning to make arrangements for board. Father went to Waterville yesterday morning (by the cars) and has not got home yet. Uncle ES. is here a writing, Dely is off a sliding. George is in the woods. We have received no news from California since you went away. Rowland went up to lycium last Thursday night. He said they had a prety good time. I have just been up to <Orman, M> to get some crackers. Mother is washing the floor. This is the first time that I ever undertook to write a letter and I do not know as you can read it for I cant hardly. We have got our load of wood at the door. Our white calf is dead, he died last night. Our horses do not look so well since you went away, all but my little colty he is smart.

Mother would like to know how you get along with being vaccinated. Mr Jones is a going to move away next week. Father has ingaged George Jones for another season. Dely sends his love to you. I am geting along well, with my school. Betsy has just come in. Send my love to Mr Jewett, Mr Townsend and Mr Perley. I hope that you can read this for it has took me a good while to write it. We have had a leter from Aunt Everlin.

Affectionately Yours
Charles H H

181 2/24/1850 *From:* John H Otis

To: Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0171

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Feb 24th 1850

Dear Otis

I though perhaps you would like to know how we are getting along up here in Old Leeds and now pen in hand I sit down to say to you that we jog along about after the same old fasion. The Fraternity has lost none of its interest since you left except that we were disappointed in our male Editorial by Mr Emery two easing but the other department made up all that was lost in that in fact I am astonished to see so much talent in the females of Leeds.

Last Thursday your cousin Almira read to us one of the best papers I ever have heard of the kind (I mean these got up promiscuously by all classes) and she is a good reader. Miss Lucia wrote a piece of poetry ("sleigh ride") which was decidedly good. Miss Orinthia over the signature of "Zilla" give impetus some hand rubs which I should like to hear answered. I obtained the manuscript and will send you a copy. She did not like for me to send the original as it might be criticized but if not wishing to copy so long an article. I will enclose the copy I got of her and want you to return it so that she will not know I sent it to you.

The Doctor has recovered his health but has not got over his whims about gossip. This is the only thing I have seen in the Dr. that I did not like. He is likely to have some considerable oposition from the little Esqs and his friends about Clerkship but I think we shall cut the pack so as defeat the false shuffle. The Davacites had a caucus at the north end Wednesday night and there is quite a stir about town officers. Anything for excitement. I cares not what we have only stir up the beasts occasionaly.

R.B. was over last Thursday getting along well. His school didn't keep that day on acount of the funeral of D. Ridley. He says that one half of his school was his children and the rest were nephews nieces cousins &c so he had a holiday proving that there is no great loss without some small gain.

We have not much new since you left. There was indeed a troting match at Wayne yesterday. It was said that the fastest horse went a mile in five minutes but some think that fraud was used in the time as they could not get a watch that could go beside such horses.

How did you find the Portland? Fancy had a pleasant walk to visit if I recollect right. Mind that all the affairs of your societies are adjusted as I understood that was why you left so long before the commencement of the term. But remember the cars have large mirrors. Uncle Ben has got eyes where his specks are on. My little family are well and also mother and father.

In good will.
J H Otis

P.S. I enclose Zillas communications and should like to hear more from Inexpertus.

182 2/25/1850 *From:* John Gilmore

To: Dear Boy [O O Howard]

OOH-0172

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Feby 25 1850

My Dear Boy

Yours of the 18th Inst was recd by the mail Saturday. The story that Mr Henry tells you is quite likely to be true. You may give him the note for 35\$ and nothing less, but if he will not pay more than 30\$ & you are so much in want of the money to pay your College bills that you think it is best to throw in five Dollars you can do it. You know that a bird in the hand is better than one on the wing. Not much news. Arza came home this morning has made some pretty good sales in New York & Massachusetts. Widow Charlotte was published yesterday. Charles has written a few lines & wants me to enclose it. Your Mother has been washing & says she is too tired to write in haste.

Yours truly
J Gilmore

183 2/27/1850 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0173

Bowd College

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd College Feb 27th 1850

Dear Mother

I was happily surprised to receive two letters from father & my brothers this morning and was especially pleased to have a letter from Charlie. He really did well for a first attempt at composition. He must write again and every letter he writes will make the next easier. Tell him not to be discouraged because he cannot at first write anything but incidents, for that is the way with all beginners. "By & By" reflections will grow out of incidents. The greatest advantage of letter writing is facility & correctness in the use of language, which are to be gained only by frequent exercise. I will, as soon as time will allow, write him a letter which will give him more frame-work to build his epistle upon, and will make it an easier & happier task.

I have delayed writing to you purposely till I received a letter from father. Mr Henry came here in the afternoon of the day I visited him, just after I had finished my letter to father. He wanted me to give up the note for \$30.00. I told him I would for \$35.00 & added that father told me not to discount a cent & hence I was already exceeding my instructions. He, then, offered to "split the difference". I convinced him that my offer was generous & at last prevailed upon him to pay me \$35.00, which he did by borrowing somewhat of a student, of my class, of his acquaintance. For this I gave up the note, and paid my bills with the money. I sent the letter as written to see how father would like such a move supposing it could or had been made.

My vaccination took admirably or sorely! as you please. I did not stop studying but I surely should have believed myself almost irrecoverably sick, had I not know the particular cause of my malady. My arm was swollen to double its natural size - no matter about a description of the different stages. Suffice it to say that the disease has very "kindly" done its work and left me.

I have made up nearly all my fall term's studies - the themes or compositions making no small part of my labor, as I have already written about 18 pages. We have a new study this term, called "Butlers Analogy". No sentence of which is perspicuous enough to be understood at the first reading and often much study elucidates it but precious little. This we are obliged unassisted to recite off page after page.

I have found nothing in Mathematics half so bad. This comprises our "senior ease & dignity", which is anticipated through the preceding College life as something attended with so much pleasure. I like it though for it gives to the mind a useful exercise, and what is once mastered in this way is not soon forgotten. I am now copying Professor Cleavland's lectures on Chemistry as I hear them delivered, and under his instruction I find chemistry more interesting than I could have anticipated. I find him & the President the best in instructors that I ever have been under.

I must now leave this to get my lesson, merely saying that I never was in better health in my life. Perley finished his school and returned with me when I came from Portland. His health is very good. William is here says he had a fine school & no difficulty. He says the folks at Hallowell are exceedingly anxious about me, not precisely understanding why I don't return to College that way.

Give my love to Charlie, Rodelphys & all. I shall write to Rowland, directing to Wayne. I have not found time to send anything to the Lyceum as yet, but Rowland says they are doing very well without me. I am sorry I cannot be there so as to enjoy the severe attacks upon me. But, no matter, if they do.

I anticipate a great deal of improvement from these two coming terms and flatter myself that I shall be as well prepared for the active business of life as many who rank higher as scholars. A man is never so happy as when, blind to his own defects, he thinks himself as good as any body. I possess this oblivious virtue to some degree, which consists in looking for the most part "on the bright side of the picture." One cannot blame himself if he is conscious of having done his best. I have not, however, done as much as I was capable of, but probably have been as industrious as the most are at my age.

Write me as soon as you can how you do & all the family. I wish to be looking out for some lucrative

employment, which I may engage in as soon as I graduate, whether it will be far, or near to home, I cannot tell, but shall be on the watch for the best chance that opens.

Your affectionate Son
O. O. Howard